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# Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you herewith a press release by the Government of the Republic of Burundi concerning the current security and political situation in Burundi (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

### Government press release of 8 May 2015

1. Following the announcement by the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy party of its candidate in the forthcoming presidential election, certain opposition political parties and so-called civil society activists have begun demonstrations which, at the outset, were purportedly peaceful but which have turned into a violent insurrection accompanied by a series of unprecedented atrocities.

2. The residents of certain neighbourhoods in the capital representing insurgent strongholds have been held hostage and deprived of their most basic rights, namely, to go about their daily business and seek treatment. More seriously, children have been prevented from attending school, thereby being deprived of their right to education. When, throughout the country, other children were quietly sitting the examination for admission to secondary education, children in districts occupied by demonstrators were expelled from examination centres and their examination scripts torn up.

3. Moreover, these insurrectionist activities have taken on disquieting, xenophobic overtones, with anyone who is not a demonstrator or a supporter of their cause being treated as an enemy to be struck down, as happened to a Congolese citizen killed on the spot, and to a Franco-Burundian citizen who was beaten and tortured in Mutakura, an urban district in Cibitoke, even though he showed the demonstrators his French passport.

4. The most dramatic incident occurred on Thursday, 7 May 2015, when an ordinary Burundian citizen working for a telecommunications company was burned alive in the urban district of Nyakabiga simply because he was unknown to the demonstrators and treated ipso facto as a member of the Imbonerakure.

5. This drift into selective criminality should induce the organizers of the insurrection to reflect on the consequences of acts that for Burundians stir memories of what they lived through in 1994, in virtually the same districts, with the same protagonists, and, oddly enough, the same methods, the only difference being that now they have no hesitation in attacking the forces of law and order when they try to stop their barbarous acts.

6. The Government of Burundi vigorously condemns this behaviour unworthy of a political leader and still more of a responsible actor in civil society. The Government offers its condolences to the families of all the victims of these barbarous acts and calls on the organizers to put an end to them forthwith. Police and judicial officers are requested to make every effort to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

7. The Government calls on the international community to condemn this dangerous development for a country emerging from crisis and embarked on reconstruction and reconciliation. The Government invites accredited diplomats in

Bujumbura, witnesses of the criminal acts perpetrated by these so-called defenders of public freedoms, to report objectively thereon to their respective Governments and to intercede with the organizers of the demonstrations to remind them of their responsibilities.

8. The Government invites the people of Burundi in general and the residents of the capital in particular to reject and condemn the return to the atrocities of earlier years. The Government calls on the people of remain calm and united and to prepare peacefully for the forthcoming elections.

Bujumbura, 8 May 2015

Secretary-General and Spokesperson for the Government
Philippe Nzobonariba